

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Four sheets of replacement drawings have been submitted with the present Amendment. Applicants believe the drawings address the issues set forth in the Office Action. The amended drawings comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.84(p)(5). In the replacement sheet found at Sheet 2/4, three instances of the symbol “↑” have been deleted. In the replacement sheet found at Sheet 3/4, reference number 220 in FIG. 3 has been deleted. Finally, in the replacement sheet found at Sheet 4/4, the label, “FIG. 5” has been added to the figure in order to be consistent with the remainder of the disclosure.

REMARKS

Oath/Declaration

As required by the Office Action, a Supplemental Declaration of Mark T. Kief in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.67(a) has been submitted with the present application.

Specification

The Office Action indicates that the original title of the present invention is not descriptive. The title of the present invention is amended in the present Amendment. Applicants believe the amended title is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Applicants have also amended the specification to correct the informalities detailed in the Office Action.

Claims

Pending in the present application were claims 1-23, of which claims 1, 9, 15, and 21 are independent claims. In the Office Action, claims 15-20 were indicated to be allowable, while claims 1-14 and 21-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Koike (U.S. 6,177,207). With this Amendment, independent claims 1, 9, and 21 are amended, and claims 19 and 20 are cancelled. In reliance on the following remarks, Applicants believe that the present application containing claims 1-18 and 21-23 is in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify that a peak value of a magnetic field flowing through a potential return path during a write operation is less than a coercive force of the magnetic medium to which data is being written by the transducing head. Claim 1 is patentable over the Koike reference because the Koike reference does not teach or suggest each and every element of amended claim 1. Claims 2-8 depend from claim 1, and are allowable therewith.

Independent claim 9 has been amended to clarify that the at least one magnetic element of the transducing head is formed of at least three layers, where each succeeding layer has a greater permeability, with a highest permeability at an edge of the magnetic element furthest from the

main pole. Claim 9 is patentable over the Koike reference because the Koike reference does not teach or suggest a magnetic element formed of at least three layers, as amended claim 9 recites. Rather, the Koike reference teaches a thin film magnetic head including a bottom core structure that is configured to address two functions, and thus, includes a double-layer bottom core structure. See col. 17, lines 13-21. Each of the two layers serves one of the two functions, either a core function or a shield function. See col. 17, lines 13-21. Claims 10-14 depend from claim 9, and are allowable therewith.

Independent claim 21 has been amended to specify that a perpendicular write head comprises a main magnetic pole configured to write data to a magnetic medium exhibiting a coercive force, a second magnetic element separated from the main magnetic pole, and means for reducing a peak magnetic field at a trailing edge of the second magnetic element to below the coercive force of the magnetic medium in order to reduce side writing at the second magnetic element. Amended claim 21 is patentable over the Koike reference because the Koike reference fails to teach or suggest each and every element of claim 21. For example, the Koike reference fails to teach or suggest a means for reducing a peak magnetic field at a trailing edge of a magnetic element to below the coercive force of a magnetic medium. Claims 22 and 23 depend from claim 21 and are allowable therewith.

In light of the above arguments, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-14 and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that the combinations of features recited in dependent claims 2-8, 10-14, and 22-23 are patentable on their own merits, although this does not need to be specifically addressed herein since any claim depending from a patentable independent claim is also patentable. See M.P.E.P. § 2143.03, citing *In re Fine*, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

First Named Inventor: Nurul Amin

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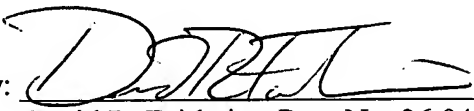
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the present application containing claims 1-18 and 21-23 is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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